

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) A bottle support plate for use in a rotary capping machine used to apply caps onto the upper threaded neck of one or more containers having a non-fully circular flange, as said containers are moved along a generally circular path by a star wheel, said bottle support plate including a pocket that at least partially supports and at least partially mates with the
5 flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container, said pocket including a support ledge and an anti-rotation wall, said anti-rotation wall having a non-fully curvilinear face designed to be at least partially matable with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container.

26. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein said support ledge is designed to at least partially engage a bottom surface of said flange of said container.

27. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein said support ledge at least partially counters a downward force applied to the upper threaded neck of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container.

28. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein said support ledge includes a curvilinear shaped front surface, said anti-rotation wall having a front surface that is shaped differently from said front face of said support ledge.

29. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein at least a portion of said anti-rotation wall extends upwardly from said support ledge.

30. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 29, wherein at least a portion of a front face of said anti-rotation wall forms an angle with said support ledge of at least about 90°.

31. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes at least one substantially straight surface.

32. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 31, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes a plurality of odd numbered straight surfaces.

33. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes at least one protrusion extended outwardly from a front face of said anti-rotation wall, said at least one protrusion designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container.

34. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 33, wherein said at least one protrusion is designed to mate with at least a portion of a periphery of the flange of said container having a V-shaped notch.

35. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 33, wherein said

at least one protrusion is designed to mate with at least a portion of a periphery of the flange of said container having a notch with at least one arcuate surface.

36. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 25, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel.

37. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 36, wherein said bottle support plate includes at least one mount opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel and at least one positioning opening to orient said bottle support plate on said star wheel.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting rotation of a container of the type having an upper threaded neck and a non-fully circular flange as a capping head screws a cap onto said neck, said method comprising: providing a bottle support plate with a pocket that at least partially supports and at least partially receives and mates with an outer peripheral edge of the flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container, said pocket including an anti-rotation wall having a non-fully curvilinear face designed to be at least partially matable with at least a portion of an outer peripheral edge of the flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container; and moving said flange at least partially into said pocket to cause said flange to at least partially receive and mate with at least a portion of said anti-rotation wall to inhibit rotation of said container with said capping head.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, including the step of moving said container in a preselected path.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, including the step of moving said container into said pocket such that a bottom surface of said flange of said container at least partially engages and is at least partially supported by a support ledge of said pocket, said support ledge at least partially countering a downward force applied to the upper threaded neck of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, wherein said anti-rotation wall extends upwardly from said support ledge and forms an angle with said support ledge of at least about 90°.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, wherein said support ledge includes a front surface and anti-rotation wall having a front surface which is shaped differently from said front face of said support ledge.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes a plurality of odd numbered straight surfaces.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel, said bottle support plate including at least one mount opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel and at least one

positioning opening to orient said bottle support plate on said star wheel.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 38, wherein a top surface of said bottle support plate includes an arcuate shaped recessed portion that terminates at said anti-rotation wall.

46. (Previously Presented) A bottle support plate for use in a rotary capping machine used to apply caps onto the upper threaded neck of one or more containers having a non-fully circular flange, as said containers are moved along a generally circular path by a star wheel, said bottle support plate connected to said star wheel and including a pocket that at least partially supports and
5 at least partially receives and mates with the flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container, said pocket including a support ledge and an anti-rotation wall, at least a portion of said anti-rotation wall extending upwardly from said support ledge, said anti-rotation wall having a non-fully curvilinear face designed to be at least partially matable with at least a portion of an outer periphery
10 of the flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container.

47. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 46, wherein said support ledge is designed to at least partially engage a bottom surface of said flange of said container.

48. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 46, wherein said support ledge at least partially counters a downward force applied to the upper threaded neck of said

container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container.

49. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 47, wherein said support ledge at least partially counters a downward force applied to the upper threaded neck of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container.

50. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 46, wherein said support ledge includes a curvilinear shaped front surface, said anti-rotation wall having a front surface that is shaped differently from said front face of said support ledge.

51. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 49, wherein said support ledge includes a curvilinear shaped front surface, said anti-rotation wall having a front surface that is shaped differently from said front face of said support ledge.

52. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 46, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes an odd number of substantially straight surfaces.

53. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 51, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes an odd number of substantially straight surfaces.

54. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 52, wherein said odd number of substantially straight surfaces is designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container having a shape of a pentagon.

55. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 53, wherein said odd number of substantially straight surfaces is designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container having a shape of a pentagon.

56. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 52, wherein said odd number of substantially straight surfaces is designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container having a shape of a heptagon.

57. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 53, wherein said odd number of substantially straight surfaces is designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container having a shape of a heptagon.

58. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 46, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel.

59. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 55, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel.

60. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 57, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel.

61. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 58, including at least one opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel.

62. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 59, including at least one opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel.

63. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 60, including at least one opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel.

64. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 46, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel, said bottle support plate including at least one mount opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel and at least one positioning opening to orient said bottle support plate on said star wheel.

65. (Currently Amended) A bottle support plate for use in a capping machine used to apply caps onto the upper threaded neck of one or more containers having a non-fully circular flange, said bottle support plate including a pocket that at least partially supports said container during a capping process and at least partially mates with an outer peripheral edge of the flange of said container during the capping process to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container, said pocket including an anti-rotation wall having a non-fully curvilinear face designed to be at least partially matable with at least a portion of the outer peripheral edge of the flange of said container to at least partially inhibit rotation of said container during the capping process, said bottle support plate including a support ledge designed to at least partially engage a bottom surface of said flange of said container and to at least partially counter a downward force applied to the upper threaded neck of said container during the threading of a cap on said upper threaded neck of said container.

Claim 66 (Canceled).

67. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 65, wherein said anti-rotation wall includes an odd number of substantially straight surfaces.

Claim 68 (Canceled).

69. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 67, wherein said odd number of substantially straight surfaces is designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container having a shape of a pentagon.

Claim 70 (Canceled).

71. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 67, wherein said odd number of substantially straight surfaces is designed to mate with at least a portion of an outer periphery of the flange of said container having a shape of a heptagon.

Claim 72 (Canceled).

73. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 65, wherein said bottle support plate is removably connected to said star wheel, said bottle support plate including at least one mount opening used to connect said bottle support plate to said star wheel and at least one positioning opening to orient said bottle support plate on said star wheel.

74. (Previously Presented) The bottle support plate as defined in claim 65, wherein said bottle support plate is designed to at least partially support a bottom surface of said flange without damaging said flange.